

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181081

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UN, SL

SUBJECT: GOSL CONSULTATIONS ON UN STRUCTURAL REFORM AND  
CHARTER REVIEW

REF: FREETOWN 01750

1. RATHER THAN ACTUAL REVIEW OF THE UN CHARTER AS IMPLIED  
IN REFTTEL, THE RECENTLY ISSUED REPORT OF PANEL OF EXPERTS  
CONCERNS STRUCTURAL REFORM OF THE UN SYSTEM IN THE ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL SECTORS WHICH WILL BE ONE ITEM ON THE AGENDA OF  
THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
(UNGA) ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
THAT WILL MEET SEPTEMBER 1-12. THE REFORMS ADVOCATED IN THE  
REPORT, WITH JUST A FEW MINOR EXCEPTIONS, WOULD NOT INVOLVE  
CHARTER AMENDMENT.

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2. THE 29TH UNGA (RES 3343) CALLED ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

TO APPOINT A SMALL GROUP OF HIGH-LEVEL EXPERTS TO SUBMIT TO THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION "A STUDY CONTAINING PROPOSALS ON STRUCTURAL CHANGES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM SO AS TO MAKE IT FULLY CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN A COMPREHENSIVE MANNER.' THE NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS CONSISTED OF 25 MEMBERS SERVING IN THEIR PRIVATE EXPERT CAPACITIES. THE GROUP FORWARDED ITS REPORT ON MAY 20 WITH THE UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF ITS MEMBERS. (FYI: THE U.S. EXPERT, FORMER IO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARD N. GARDNER, SERVED AS RAPPORTEUR AND THE REPORT LARGELY REFLECTS HIS EFFORTS. HOWEVER, GARDNER WAS NOT SUBJECT TO USG INSTRUCTIONS. MOREOVER, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO AVOID HAVING THE REPORT BECOME IDENTIFIED AS A U.S. PRODUCT BY STRESSING THE FACT THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS WAS AL NOOR KASSUM OF TANZANIA. END FYI).

3. THE REPORT WAS COMPREHENSIVE IN ITS COVERAGE, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE CENTRAL STRUCTURES OF THE UN ITSELF. ITS MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE:

-- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION TO BE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND IN CHARGE OF ALL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UN ITSELF (THIS POSITION IS TO BE RESERVED FOR A LDC NATIONAL AS LONG AS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IS A DC NATIONAL);

-- THE CONSOLIDATION OF UN VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (EXCEPT UNICEF) INTO A NEW UN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UNDER A SINGLE ADMINISTRATOR WHO WOULD BE A DEPUTY TO THE NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL (THE SEPARATE IDENTITY OF THE PROGRAMS WOULD BE MAINTAINED FOR FUND-RAISING PURPOSES);

-- THE STREAMLINING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC) WITH THE ABOLISHMENT OF MANY OF ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND A NEW YEAR-ROUND SCHEDULE;

-- NEW CONSULTATION PROCEDURES WHEREBY ECOSOC AND THE GA WOULD IN THE FIRST INSTANCE REFER SPECIFIC ECONOMIC-  
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SOCIAL ISSUES FOR RESOLUTION TO SMALL EXPERT GROUPS THAT WOULD OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF UNANIMITY AND HAVE THE ASSISTANCE OF A FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL CHAIRMAN.

4. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES ARE:

-- THE INSTALLATION OF A SCIENCE ADVISOR TO THE SYG

AND THE USE OF SMALL AD HOC GROUPS OF SCIENTISTS CONVENED TO STUDY SPECIFIC PROBLEMS;

-- THE BUILDING WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT OF A CAPACITY FOR GLOBAL INTERSECTORAL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, INCLUDING AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM REGARDING MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION;

-- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE UN PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORT TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS INDEPENDENTLY OF THE SECRETARIATS.

5. FYI: THE U.S. HAS CONCERN REGARDING THE POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS. HOWEVER, WE WANT TO MAINTAIN A GENERALLY POSITIVE, BUT LOW-PROFILE, POSTURE TOWARD THE REPORT AS A WHOLE AND AVOID DETAILED SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF IT, AT THIS STAGE, THAT MIGHT LEAD TO PREMATURE INTERPRETATIONS OF SOME AMBIGUITIES IN THE REPORT WHICH WOULD BE TROUBLESOME FOR US OR PROVOKE OPPOSITION BY OTHERS. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO MAINTAIN THE REPORT AS A POSITIVE BACKGROUND FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. END FYI.

6. THE REPORT CALLS FOR A GRADUAL IMPLEMENTATION, OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE INTERESTS OF ALL MEMBERS BE PROTECTED ADEQUATELY STEP-BY-STEP. THE REPORT SUGGESTS THAT A COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED TO STUDY AND REPORT REGULARLY TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE PROGRESS OF THE RESTRUCTURING EFFORTS.

7. THE REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SESSION PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (JUNE 16-20). AT THAT MEETING, THERE WAS VERY LITTLE COMMENT ON THE SUB-CONFIDENTIAL

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STANCE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS. ALMOST ALL MEMBERS INDICATED THAT THEY HAD NOT YET HAD TIME TO STUDY THE REPORT IN DETAIL. THE LDCS WERE PARTICULARLY RELUCTANT TO ENGAGE IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FEAR OF DISTRACTING ATTENTION FROM THE MAJOR ECONOMIC POLICY ISSUES ON WHICH THEY ARE FOCUSING. THE PRIMARY LDC CONCERN SEEMED TO BE THE PROPOSAL FOR NEW CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURES WHICH SOME SAW AS AN ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE THEIR VOTING POWER.

8. IN DISCUSSING THE REPORT, THE EMBASSY MAY WANT TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. WE BELIEVE THE REPORT, AS A WHOLE, TO BE AN IMAGINATIVE EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE CAPACITY AND EFFECTIVENESS

OF THE UNITED NATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN ASSISTING MULTI-LATERAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

B. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT ARE A CAREFULLY INTEGRATED PACKAGE THAT DESERVES CAREFUL AND COMPREHENSIVE STUDY AS A WHOLE.

C. IN VIEW OF THE COMPLEXITY AND COMPREHENSIVE CHARACTER OF THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS, THE SHORTNESS OF THE SPECIAL SESSION, AND THE MAJOR FOCUS OF ATTENTION ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY ISSUES THAT WILL BE ON THE SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA, THE U.S. WOULD AGREE THAT THE SPECIAL SESSION SHOULD ESTABLISH AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN DETAIL AND PROPOSE, BY THE 31ST GA AT THE LATEST, SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTING STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY THE RELEVANT UN BODIES.

9. REGARDING CHARTER REVIEW, U.S. AS WELL AS GOSL IS A MEMBER OF UNGA AD HOC COMMITTEE ON UN CHARTER REVIEW, BUT US REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS REGARDING ANY EFFORT AT OVER-ALL CHARTER REVIEW REMAIN UNCHANGED. WITH RESPECT TO CHANGED COMPOSITION OF SECURITY COUNCIL MENTIONED IN PARA 3 OF REFTL, IT MUST BE RECALLED THAT ALL FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL MUST RATIFY ANY CHARTER AMENDMENT FOR IT TO BECOME EFFECTIVE.

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10. FOR USUN: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR POUCHING A COPY OF EXPERTS' REPORT TO FREETOWN IF POSSIBLE. OUR STOCK IS EXHAUSTED. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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